AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a cell, comprising contacting said cell with ~~the peptide of claim 1~~ an isolated peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and its capable of inhibiting of the binding MKK7 kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

26. (original): The method of claim 25, wherein said cell is a neuronal cell or a pancreatic cell.

27. (original): The method of claim 25, wherein said cell is provided *in vitro, in vivo* or *ex vivo*.

28. (currently amended): A method of alleviating a symptom of an apoptosis-associated disorder in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject ~~the polypeptide of claim 1~~ an isolated peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and its capable of inhibiting of the binding MKK7 kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

29. (original): The method of claim 28, wherein said apoptosis-associated disorder is selected from the group consisting of a neurological disorder, a neurodegenerative disorder, and a pancreatic disorder.

30. (currently amended): A method of promoting neuronal cell growth or regeneration, comprising contacting said cell ~~with the peptide of claim 1~~ an isolated peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and its capable of inhibiting of the binding MKK7 kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

31. (new): A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a cell, comprising contacting said cell with a chimeric peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises a first domain and a second domain linked by a covalent bond, wherein said first domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second domain comprises an SH3 binding peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X represents any single amino acid residue, and wherein said chimeric peptide and is capable of inhibiting of the binding MKK kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

32. (new): The method of claim 31, wherein said cell is a neuronal cell or a pancreatic cell.

33. (new): The method of claim 31, wherein said cell is provided *in vitro, in vivo* or *ex vivo*.

34. (new): A method of alleviating a symptom of an apoptosis-associated disorder in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a chimeric peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises a first domain and a second domain linked by a covalent bond, wherein said first domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second domain comprises an SH3 binding peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X represents any single amino acid residue, and wherein said chimeric peptide and is capable of inhibiting of the binding MKK kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).

35. (new): The method of claim 34, wherein said apoptosis-associated disorder is selected from the group consisting of a neurological disorder, a neurodegenerative disorder, and a pancreatic disorder.

36. (new): A method of promoting neuronal cell growth or regeneration, comprising contacting said cell with a chimeric peptide less than 50 amino acids in length, wherein the peptide comprises a first domain and a second domain linked by a covalent bond, wherein said first domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second domain comprises an SH3 binding peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X represents any single amino acid residue, and wherein said chimeric peptide and is capable of inhibiting of the binding MKK kinase to insulin binding protein 1 (IB1) or insulin binding protein 2 (IB2).